Digital debates with
Kialo Edu

Online Debating with Kialo Edu

The ability to argue and debate precisely is central to participation in academic discourse. By learning to present, evaluate, and classify arguments in terms of their relevance within the safe environment of a course, students gain an understanding of how academic opinion-forming works and at the same time stengthen their rhetorical skills. Kialo Edu offers a clear digital presentation of arguments on one or more theses. Anonymous participation is possible.

How can Kialo Edu be used in a course?

Kialo Edu can not only be used for structured discussion, but also promotes critical thinking, collaborative learning, and the joint development of arguments. Three central functions of Kialo Edu can be used for this purpose.

1 Live-discussions

With Kialo Edu, students can collaborate online to gather arguments for a thesis or claim, and weigh them against each other. The discussions are visualized in a tree diagram or sunburst chart, which illustrate the logical structure of arguments and help to better understand connections. A color code divides the arguments into pros and cons.

2 Asynchronous use

Kialo Edu can be used to prepare and document the chain of arguments in a written paper or oral discussion. New arguments and perspectives can be added over time, resulting in an increasingly differentiated picture.

3 Combining arguments into an overall picture

With the "Impact" function, students can assign individual arguments the relevance they have for forming a final opinion. By deliberately asking not for a subjective assessment but for the weight of the argument, this contributes to making the discussion more objective.

1 Live discussions

Debates and seminar discussions

Teachers can use Kialo Edu to guide students through a structured discussion in which both pros and cons on a topic are collected and evaluated. This can be implemented both in person and completely digitally.

› supports live discussion through visualization

Hybrid discussion

Even in a scenario where participants in a discussion are connected in a hybrid setting, they can still have equal access to and participation in the digital debate. This allows participants from different locations to engage in the exchange.

› promotes equal involvement of hybrid participants in the exchange

Inclusion of all students

Face-to-face discussions tend to favor extroverted personalities over introverted ones. In digital debates, the potential barrier of speaking in front of the group and engaging in confrontation is eliminated. This helps to increase participation and diversity of perspectives. Anonymous participation is also possible.

› lowers the barrier to participation

2 Asynchronous use

Preparing topics for presentations or assignments

Students use Kialo Edu to gather their main arguments before writing a term paper and organize them in a clear structure.

› facilitates efficient structuring of thoughts for writing

Reviewing past discourses

Students use Kialo Edu to present different perspectives on a topic and collect supporting or refuting facts over a longer period of time. In this way, for example, a historical discourse can be revisited and retraced.

› enables a high level of detail and diversity of perspectives

Preparing for oral debates

If students are to take sides in a discussion for a line of argument within a debate, they can collect arguments together in preparation. At the same time, they can also anticipate the arguments of the opposing side and prepare a rebuttal or objection on a further level.

› enables you to maintain an overview on several levels of argumentation

3 Combining arguments into an overall picture

Identify crucial points

When arguments are evaluated according to their impact, they are given a differentiated color saturation in the sunburst display. This clearly highlights the most relevant arguments, allowing them to be addressed specifically. This prevents the discussion from getting stalled in topics of minor interest.

› helps separating less important content

Critical analysis of discussions

The voted arguments reveal both the quality and quantity of the arguments. This allows students to learn, for example, to weigh a few strong arguments against many weak ones. Evaluating the "impact," i.e., the relevance to the debate as opposed to subjective assessments, contributes to objectivity.

› works towards an objective classification of all arguments

Final evaluation of the main thesis

Once sufficient arguments have been presented and classified according to their relevance, the main thesis can be evaluated. The various visualizations make it easier to view the discussion at different levels of detail and to bring it together into a final overall picture.

› supports the formation of a final opinion with the help of different visualizations